

## County Council Meeting

April 16, 2013

**Present:** Jim Seiler, Jack Kroeger, Blake Bunner, Bill Spaetti, Steve Winsett, Dave Kress, Matt Knepper, Attorney Eric Ayer, Auditor Jane Lynam

Meeting was called to order by President Jack Kroeger at 5:00 P.M.

Kroeger asked for a moment of silence in honor of David Gogel's father Claude. Kroeger then asked to make a change in the agenda to let Tony Wolfe and Larry Hesson speak first.

### **Road Funding-Tony Wolfe and Larry Hesson**

Kroeger explained that at the last Legislative Committee a Budget Bill was discussed, that has passed the Senate, that has a provision for 2014-2015 that would require counties to have the wheel excise tax if they are to receive full distribution of the road funds that are proposed in the budget.

Tony Wolfe did a presentation entitled "What is the Wheel Tax"? Wolfe explained that the potential additional monies Spencer County could get from the House Bill would be a \$653,000 increase in fiscal 2014 and \$670,000 in fiscal 2015. The potential Senate Bill increase would be \$328,000 in fiscal 2014 and \$570,000 in fiscal 2015. That is the potential, but the actual amount is zero because Spencer County does not have the Wheel Tax. You have to have the Wheel Tax/Surtax at 100% rate to get the money: this money, Highway dollars, is generated at the gas pump.

When Governor Daniels took office 50% of the State Police budget was funded out of motor vehicle accounts, at the end of his first term it went to 55% and when he left office it was at 62%. That's how the State Police, Department of Revenue and Bureau of Motor Vehicles are funded. The General Assembly has decided that this year that money will revert back to the Highway Fund.

Wolfe further explained that the wheel tax is composed of two different parts; one part IC 6-3.5-4 Excise Tax and IC 6-3.5-5 Wheel Tax. Excise Surtax applies to passenger cars; pickups plated less than 11,000 pounds and motorcycles. Wheel tax covers busses, trucks, and semi-tractors, trailers, recreational vehicles and about everything else that requires a plate. Wolfe explained that it could be done in two different ways, one you could use a fixed dollar rate with \$7.50 minimum and \$25.00 maximum or you could use a percentage with 2% the minimum and 10% the maximum. Percentage does not raise as much money as the fixed dollar amount; Wolfe said Spencer County would generate more money if they used the flat rate.

Kroeger noted that this presentation was not to sell the Wheel/Excise Tax; it was so we could understand what is going on. Kroeger then said if this is a reasonable tax, would this be a good thing to do, do we need an additional \$500,000?

David Gogel said he felt that we should wait and see what happens after the session ends before we make any decisions; if we have to schedule a special meeting to take care of the issue we could do that.

Kroeger introduced Larry Hesson who also attended the meeting to help explain the wheel tax. Everyone thanked Wolfe and Hesson for attending.

### **2013 CEDIT Plan**

Tara Lloyd passed out copies of the 2013 CEDIT plan so all the County Council members could see what had been planned for the year.

### **Minutes**

Spaetti made a motion to approve the minutes from March 19 as written. Winsett seconded the motion, motion approved.

### **Additional Appropriations**

#### **County General**

Commissioners/Veterans Service Officer/Memorial Day Expenses \$1,000.00

Veteran Service Officer Dean Knepper asked for the increase due to an increase in the amount of flags needed. Knepper explained that \$217.00 was all he actually needed. Bunner made a motion to approve the \$217.00. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

### **COIT**

County Council One Time Donation to YCC \$300,000.00

Kroeger as the President of the County Council was the one who requested the appropriation. Kroeger explained that the Council should postpone the vote until we get some kind of agreement from the YCC Board. Attorney Ayer explained that he had been in contact with the YCC Attorney, Bruce Cissna, and they had been working on getting everything in order. Ayer stated that he had also been in contact with the Commissioners Attorney, Jeff Lindsey, and they had some stipulations that they wanted in writing first.

### **Health**

Public Health Preparedness Bonus Grant \$18,280.00

Donna Etienne represented the Health Department and explained that they were going to replace their color copiers. She further explained that this grant is a reimbursable grant. Kress made a motion to approve the \$18,280. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**New Business**

**Lisa Gehlhausen-Region 15**

Gehlhausen presented a handout to explain what Region 15 does with Spencer County's appropriation of money/Per Capita Dues, and what it brings back to the community. Spencer County appropriates and contributes \$9,428.40 to Indiana Region 15; this money is used to go after federal grants with the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, at no cost to the county. If the grant is funded, Indiana Region 15 administers it for a fee. Spencer Counties return on their investment in 2012 was over one million dollars.

Gehlhausen said she was hopeful that Spencer County would continue to participate with Indiana Region 15 for at least the next 3 years. She asked that the Council look over the project list and prioritize it.

**Inmate Housing**

Winsett said since we have to keep putting money into the inmate housing fund he wondered why there weren't more juveniles in the Community Corrections program. Attorney Ayer responded that he was on the Community Corrections Board and he would be more than willing to ask that question at the next meeting. Ayer explained that Community Corrections was established to help alleviate the overcrowding in the Indiana Prison System, and to bring the non-violent offenders back into the community to work and support their families and get the training and counseling they need. Ayer said that Community Corrections has done a very worthwhile project in this county; he agreed that they need to look at putting more juveniles into the program.

David Gogel said he had spoken to the Prosecutor about this matter and she said she would look into it. Gogel said he had contacted Perry County and they send their juveniles to a center near Carmel. Everyone is aware of the problem, and we are looking for solutions.

**Budget Hearings**

Kroeger explained that we needed to set up dates for Budget Hearings. Spaetti made a motion to schedule Budget Hearings for August 21, 22, and 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Groundbreaking**

Spaetti reported on the St.Meinrad Water Project Groundbreaking. Spaetti, Kress and Knepper represented the Council and Gogel, Logsdon and Toler were there representing the Commissioners. Spaetti said he thanked the community for their support; he said they had a good program and a good crowd in attendance.

Kress made a motion to adjourn. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

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President  
Attest

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Auditor